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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



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PALMETTO  
VETS GAZETTE  
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*"From the Director's Desk"*

STATE DOCUMENTS

During the next few months, the Nation and South Carolina will pay tribute to the men and women whose sacrifices during wartime have made this country great.

World War I came to an end on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. The end of the first World War was cause for celebration and resulted in a national holiday to honor those who fought for democracy and freedom. Armistice Day received its name in 1926 through a congressional resolution but did not become a holiday until 1938. Idealistic hope had been that World War I was the war to end all wars. If it had been, November 11th might still be called Armistice Day. But shortly after the holiday was proclaimed by Congress, World War II broke out in Europe and shattered that hope. The U.S. became involved after the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. 16.5 million Americans either fought or supported the effort on behalf of the U.S. during the span of World War II. 406,000 Americans died. The families and friends of those dead wanted a way to honor their memory. The solution of how to pay tribute to those who served in this latest great war came in a proposal made by Representative Edwin K. Reese of Kansas: "change Armistice Day to Veterans Day and make it an occasion to honor those who have served America in all wars". In 1954, President

Eisenhower signed the bill proclaiming November 11th as Veterans Day. South Carolina's Governor Campbell issued a Proclamation declaring Monday, November 11, 1991 as Veterans Day 1991 in South Carolina and extends this observance to all citizens.

Also, Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA) and Mrs. Fay Cook, the State Committee Chairperson for South Carolina will honor 4 lady veterans and this event will pay tribute to the 16,900 lady veterans residing in South Carolina.

There are few who, if they were alive and of the age of reason in 1941, cannot recall where they were and what they were doing when they heard the news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. "Remember Pearl Harbor" is as appropriate today as it ever was in honoring those patriots who stood strong and served their nation under the harshest of conditions. This year Governor Campbell's Proclamation declares Saturday, December 7, 1991, as the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day and invites the citizens of South Carolina "to honor the memory of the servicemen and women who lost their lives and reflect on this historic turning point in our history".

\* \* \* \* \*



## **CVAO NEWS**

As reported in the last issue of the Vets Gazette, several CVAO's have left office this year. Since July, two more have decided to leave. Frank Ward of Marlboro County retired after 26 years of service to veterans. Jim Griffin of Florence County left to pursue other opportunities. We wish both these fine gentlemen, health, wealth and happiness.

Mr. Jim Allen has been appointed as Frank's successor in Marlboro County. No successor has been named for Florence County.

Tuesday, October 15, 1991 has been chosen by the Director as the date for the annual CVAO meeting in Columbia. As in the past, it will be held at The American Legion Post 6 on Pickens Street and will get underway promptly at 10:00am. A full schedule of speakers is planned, so mark your calendars and make plans to attend. There will also be a meeting of the S.C. Association of County Veterans Officers immediately following the annual meeting, also at Post 6.

From all reports, the upper state seminar held at the Chester State Park on August 22, 1991, was a very successful and informative meeting. Ben Owens deserves the credit for this well planned and conducted seminar.

‘‘THANKS BEN’’

## **BENEFITS CHANGES**

Public Law 102-86, which was signed by President Bush on August 14, 1991, made several changes to veterans benefits. The highlights are listed below but this list is not all inclusive.

+ Permits the payment of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for parents of a deceased veteran on a less than monthly basis if the amount of the annual benefit is less than 4 percent of the maximum annual rate payable.

+ Provides that no readjustment in the Schedule for Rating Disabilities shall cause a veterans' disability rating in effect on the effective date of the readjustment to be reduced unless an ac-

tual improvement is shown. This provision is effective with regard to changes in the rating schedule that shall take effect after the date of enactment of this Act.

+ Provides for in cases of Atomic veterans' presumptions, the presumptive period for leukemia shall be the 40 year period beginning on the last date on which the veteran participated onsite in a radiation risk activity.

+ Extends the time period for applying for Service Disabled Life Insurance (RH) from 1 to 2 years after a grant of service connection.

+ Requires the payment of RH insurance in a lump sum in certain instances involving service connected disabled incompetent veterans.

+ Requires that after enactment of the Act, social workers employed by the Veterans Health Administration hold a master's degree in social work.

+ Restores eligibility for burial and DIC benefits in the case of certain remarried spouses and dependent children who were eligible for such benefits on October 31, 1990, (whose marital or dependent status has remained unchanged) but who had not filed claims prior to the effective date of Section 8004 of PL 101-508, the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1990.

## **VETERANS ORGANIZATION COMMANDERS**

American Legion

B.W. Bell

American Ex-POW's\*

C.E. Youngblood

AMVETS

Gene Hewitt

Disabled American Veterans

Willie Grooms

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Carl A. Robinson Sr.

\*new elections at state convention 10/91.



## **SOLDIERS' HOME RULES CHANGE**

The U.S. Soldiers' and Airmens' Home will set an age requirement for retiree admissions effective November 5, 1991. After that date, retirees will need to be 60 or older to be admitted to the home. **[Those retirees who are not yet age 60 need to act now].** Call toll free, 1-800-422-9988, or write to: Admissions Office, USSAH, Washington, DC 20317 for an application packet. Those retirees not yet 60, who are living at the home on Nov. 5, will be grandfathered. Also effective on Nov. 5, the user fee will increase from 25% of retired pay and VA compensation to 25% of all federal annuities including Civil Service retirement and Social Security. Residents of the home on Nov. 5 will have this new user fee phased in.

## **PEARL HARBOR VETS**

Congress has authorized a commemorative medal for veterans of the attack on Pearl Harbor. This medal will be presented in ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of the attack in November and December of this year. Members of the Armed Forces who were in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, and civilian employees of the War Department or Navy Department who were killed or wounded in the Pearl Harbor attack, are eligible for the award. The next of kin of any deceased service member or eligible civilian may accept the award on their behalf. For applications and more information, call 1-800-545-4052.

## **BUDGET WOES**

Due to the severe budget restrictions this fiscal year, we have decided (reluctantly) to modify the frequency of the Palmetto Vets Gazette. The newsletter will only be published on a quarterly basis. It is hoped that next year's budget allocation will allow us to again publish the newsletter on a bi-monthly basis.

## **GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS POW/ MIA DAY**

Governor Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. proclaimed September 20, 1991 as POW/MIA Recogni-

tion Day in South Carolina in recognition of the bravery, fidelity and sacrifices of the men and women who endured captivity by a harsh enemy or are still Missing in Action. Their contributions and sacrifices for God and country help make this nation a better place for all of us to live.

## **LOUISIANA VETS BONUS**

Act 12 (Section 20-8xxx) of the 1991 Regular Legislative Session, State of Louisiana, authorized the payment of a bonus to Louisiana citizens who served as members of the Armed Forces and Coast Guard in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Eligibility for the bonus will be restricted to include only those persons who served in the Desert Shield/Desert Storm Theater of Operations between the dates of August 2, 1990 and April 11, 1991 and received or is eligible to receive the Southwest Asia Service Medal. Bonuses will also be paid to certain survivors of individuals who died as a result of service in Desert Shield/Desert Storm or who died of unrelated causes prior to applying for the bonus.

Individuals needing information, assistance, or bonus applications should contact the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, Bonus Division, P.O. Box 94095, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095; telephone (504) 342-5863.

## **NEW VETERANS**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that the famed World War II "Flying Tigers" and certain civilian crewmen of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey vessels who served during World War II have been granted veteran status. In general, these newly designated veterans or their survivors can apply for the same benefits currently available to other World War II veterans, including disability compensation, pension, medical care, VA guaranteed home loans, burial benefits and certain survivor benefits. Certain dates apply to each category. Contact your County Veteran Affairs Officer, this agency or the VA for more information.



## THE "WRITE" STUFF CAN SEND THE WRONG MESSAGE

**A** picture, according to an ancient Chinese proverb, is worth more than a thousands words. A misplaced word, however, can occasionally conjure up a multitude of pictures and not necessarily what one would expect.

Over the years the Army's Finance Center at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, has received many heart-wrenching letters from spouses and dependents of soldiers appealing for help. On occasion, however, the point the writer tries to convey, and the message delivered can be much different -- often comically so.

For instance, do you think the writers really intended to say what came across in the following sentences? (Spelling and grammar remains as originally written.)

- \* In accordance with your instructions, I have given birth to twins in the enclosed envelope.
- \* I have already wrote the president and if I don't hear from you I will write Uncle Sam.
- \* I have already had no clothing for a year and have been regularly visited by the clergy.
- \* This is my eight child. What are you going to do about it?
- \* Please find out for certain if my husband is dead as the man I am living with won't eat or sleep or do anything till he nose for sure.
- \* You change my little girl to boy. Does this make a difference?
- \* I am glad to say that my husband, who was reported missing, is now dead.
- \* I has no children as my husband is a truck driver and works night and day.
- \* Sir, I am forwarding my marriage certificate and two children, one of which is a mistake as you can see.
- \* Unless I get my husband's money soon, I will be forced to lead an immortal life.
- \* I am annoyed to find that you have branded my child illiterate. It is a shame and dirty lie, as I married his father a week before he was born.
- \* Both sides of my parents is poor and I can't expect nothing from them as my mother has been in bed with the same doctor for one year and won't change.

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